

Goals of First Steps

Our goal in the First Steps System is the same as yours: To make sure that families have the necessary supports, services, and resources that they need to raise healthy, happy, and successful children. First Steps works with Missouri families of children age birth to three by ensuring that coordinated services are provided as conveniently as possible. Participation in First Steps is voluntary and is intended to help families of children with disabilities:

- 1 Understand their child's special needs
- 1 Obtain the support and help they need to deal with situations that could interfere with their child's growth and development
- 1 Provide the best conditions for their child's growth and development

First Steps is a collaborative effort of four state agencies—the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services. First Steps is supported by federal and state funds from the four agencies and by other local and private agencies throughout Missouri.

Families can contact their county First Steps Office for more information by calling toll free:

1-866-583-2392

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<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divspeced/First%20Steps/index.htm>

A large illustration on the right side of the page. It features a yellow boat with a red sail on a blue background. Below the boat, there is a grid pattern with several purple fish swimming. The text "Missouri First Steps" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the top of the illustration.

Missouri First Steps

Local Interagency Coordinating Council



Local Interagency Coordinating Councils

Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)

A Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) is recognized as the authentic voice for the First Steps Early Intervention System. An LICC may represent an individual county or a cluster of counties who have joined together to support First Steps at the local level. An LICC establishes a visible presence for First Steps, ensuring the needs of families with children with disabilities and developmental delays are met in their community.

A Local Interagency Coordinating Council provides leadership and quality assurance of the First Steps System within its own community. As community “pictures” and needs differ, so will each LICC.

The LICC has a number of responsibilities, which include upholding the First Steps Belief Statements and assisting in Child Find and local public awareness activities.

Key Components and Roles of an LICC

1. Public Awareness and Child Find
2. Early Intervention Provider Recruitment
3. Procedural Safeguards Information and Services
4. Transition and Interagency Agreements (local level)
5. Council Membership
6. Quality Assurance
7. Training
8. Evaluating LICC Achievement of Outcomes and Effectiveness
9. Evaluating Effectiveness of the Local First Steps System

Being active in an LICC may take several different forms—depending upon your availability, interests, and skills. It is important that the diverse voices of each community are reflected on the LICC to ensure that the local communities are effectively engaging their resources to better

serve all families with very young children—including those with disabilities and their families. No one agency or entity can do this alone. We need to work together; this is the primary purpose of each LICC.

How can I get involved?

Parents and professionals are an important part of the LICC. Anyone who has a child with a disability or who works with children with special needs is invited to join the LICC. If you would like more information and want to contact your LICC call your local First Steps Office.

